

**GRADE**

**4**

# KENTUCKY

**K-PREP**

Kentucky Performance Rating For Educational Progress



## READING SAMPLE ITEMS

Spring 2013

The following are the general guides that will be used to evaluate your responses to short-answer and extended-response questions in this test.

## Kentucky Short-Answer Questions General Scoring Guide

### Score Point 2

- You complete all components of the question and communicate ideas clearly.
- You demonstrate an understanding of the concepts and/or processes.
- You provide a correct answer using an accurate explanation as support.

### Score Point 1

- You provide a partially correct answer to the question and/or address only a portion of the question.
- You demonstrate a partial understanding of the concepts and/or processes.

### Score Point 0

- Your answer is totally incorrect or irrelevant.

### Blank

- You did not give any answer at all.

# Kentucky Extended-Response Questions

## General Scoring Guide

### Score Point 4

- You complete all important components of the question and communicate ideas clearly.
- You demonstrate in-depth understanding of the relevant concepts and/or processes.
- Where appropriate, you choose more efficient and/or sophisticated processes.
- Where appropriate, you offer insightful interpretations or extensions (generalizations, applications, analogies).

### Score Point 3

- You complete most important components of the question and communicate clearly.
- You demonstrate an understanding of major concepts even though you overlook or misunderstand some less-important ideas or details.

### Score Point 2

- You complete some important components of the question and communicate those components clearly.
- You demonstrate that there are gaps in your conceptual understanding.

### Score Point 1

- You show minimal understanding of the question.
- You address only a small portion of the question.

### Score Point 0

- Your answer is totally incorrect or irrelevant.

### Blank

- You did not give any answer at all.

*Actions that are done in specific situations time after time are called traditions. The following passage discusses some traditions that may be familiar and others that may be new to you. Read this passage about different traditions. Then answer the questions that follow.*

## **Traditions: Bridging Past, Present, and Future**

- If a person sneezes, a common reply is “Bless you!”
  - At graduation ceremonies, the tune titled “Pomp and Circumstance” is often played.
  - On New Year’s Eve, people from all over the world gather in New York City’s Times Square to watch a big ball drop slowly down a pole in a countdown to the new year.
  - Large and colorfully decorated hats are a common sight at the Kentucky Derby.
- 1 Each of these is a tradition. Traditions are statements, beliefs, actions, or customs that are handed down from one generation to the next. They are often passed down orally through storytelling, or by example. The word tradition comes from a Latin word that means to “hand over, hand down, or to transfer.” The meaning of the word has *grown to mean* what it does today.
  - 2 Some traditions come from customs that are several thousand years old, while others are more recent. Traditions help make up the culture of a place or community. They are a part of many of the things we do at specific events or times of the year. Traditions can develop from things that were done a certain way a long time ago. Sometimes traditions change over time.
  - 3 For example, when a person sneezes, often someone nearby will reply, “Bless you!” It does not matter whether that person knows the person who sneezed. We know today that sneezing has a variety of causes such as a cold, allergies, or strong odors. The tradition of wishing someone well after a sneeze started as far back as ancient times. If someone sneezed, the person might be wished good health. In fact, in the Spanish language, the word “Salud” means health and is often said when someone sneezes.
  - 4 The *practice* grew into a blessing in the sixth century during the plague, a time when a serious illness swept through the land. An important religious leader

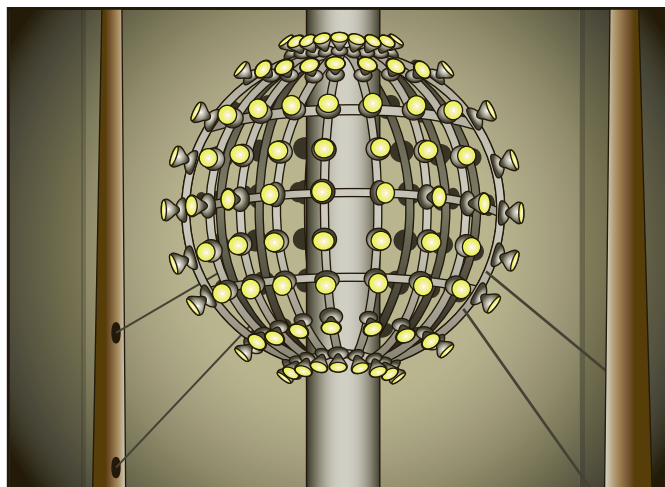




called for unending prayers, hoping that the community's prayers would stop the plague from spreading. As a sneeze was believed to be a sign of the plague, saying "Bless you!" after a sneeze was believed to keep the person safe from catching the feared illness.

- 5 Traditions can be practiced during special events. When students graduate, it is traditional for them to walk across a stage to receive their diplomas with the musical tune called "Pomp and Circumstance" playing in the background. The tune is called a march because it was intended to be played while one or more people walked slowly down a walkway. "Pomp and Circumstance" was written in 1901 by Sir Edward Elgar and was used for the crowning of a new king. In 1905, Sir Elgar was honored by Yale University during graduation, and his march was played after he received his award. This was the start of the tradition to play the tune during graduation ceremonies.

- 6 Some traditions are locally important, though they may be known around the world. In 1907, for example, the first New Year's ball was lowered at exactly midnight in Times Square in New York City to mark the start of the new year. That ball was made from iron and wood. This tradition of lowering the ball is now known around the world, so millions of people watch the ball drop on television every year. The ball has changed over time and is now made from brilliant crystal and is lit from the inside with colorful lights.



- 7 The Kentucky Derby is a popular event with many traditions. One Derby tradition is the wearing of hats. It is thought that the tradition comes from the early years of the Derby when it was organized as a social gathering. Women were encouraged to dress in the latest styles. Hats were an important part of women's fashion in the 1870s, so the tradition of wearing hats to the Kentucky Derby continues to this day.
- 8 In the 1960s, Derby hats began to take on unique colors and styles, with tall feathers, wild ribbons, and even little horses racing around the hat. Today, wearing



a hat to the Kentucky Derby is believed to bring good luck to the wearer. The hats have also become part of the Derby's fame. Even people who know very little about the Kentucky Derby seem to know that fancy hats are worn by many women who go to the Derby.



- 9 Traditions are an important part of any culture. They can make everyday experiences more meaningful and help those who take part in them to celebrate together. While some traditions fade away over time, most continue to grow and change as they are passed on to new generations, connecting the past and the future.

1

What is the meaning of the phrase *grown to mean* in paragraph 1?

- A** The meaning is now more important.
- B** The meaning has changed somewhat.
- C** The meaning is accepted by more people.
- D** The meaning has lost some of its appeal.

2

Read this sentence from paragraph 4.

"The *practice* grew into a blessing in the sixth century during the plague, a time when a serious illness swept through the land."

Which definition of *practice* is used in this sentence?

- A** v. To work at a profession
- B** v. To do or perform an action repeatedly
- C** n. A customary way of doing something
- D** n. A preparation for a performance



3

How does the author of “Traditions: Bridging Past, Present, and Future” use history as evidence for the tradition of the sneeze blessing?

- A** History is given to explain how terrible the disease was.
- B** History is used to explain why people wish for strength and continued good health for others.
- C** History is used to support the idea that people all over the world say something when a person sneezes.
- D** History is used to introduce the religious leader of the sixth century.

4

“Pomp” means a dignified display. “Circumstance” is a condition determining a course of action. Using these definitions, which explanation *best* supports the tradition of playing “Pomp and Circumstance” at graduation ceremonies?

- A** Graduation ceremonies are serious events where people are expected to behave appropriately.
- B** Graduation ceremonies mark the end of formal school attendance for many people.
- C** Graduation ceremonies are colorful and filled with much celebration.
- D** Graduation ceremonies are memorable events for graduates and their families.

5

Which organizational method does the author use in “Traditions: Bridging Past, Present, and Future”?

- A** Comparison / contrast
- B** Problem / solution
- C** Time order / sequence
- D** Topic / explanation

**6**

Read this brief journal entry.

Dear J: I am shivering as I write; I'm so cold. I just returned from the city where my relatives took my parents and me to watch the ball drop in Times Square. There were so many people there—more than I've ever seen together in one place. When the ball dropped, everyone was counting from 10 down to 1. At that point everyone shouted "Happy New Year." People were screaming, cheering, and blowing horns and noisemakers. Some were kissing and hugging; a few were even crying. I had fun, but I'm so glad to finally be able to get warm. I'm also very sleepy right now. Good night, J! And, Happy New Year!

Explain how this journal entry is different from the description of New Year's Eve in Times Square in the passage. Use details from both the passage and the journal entry to support your explanation.

Rubric	
Score	Description
2	The student explains how this journal entry is different from the description of New Year's Eve in Times Square in the passage. The student uses details from both the passage and the journal to support the explanation.
1	The student explains the celebration in Times Square from the passage, but fails to connect it to the journal writer's description.  OR  The student mentions details from both the passage and the journal, but fails to discuss the differences between them.
0	The student's response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.

**Annotated Student Response****SAMPLE 2-POINT RESPONSE**

1. The journal entry is different from the description of New Years Eve in Times Square because the description tells facts such as "In 1907, for example, the first New Years Eve ball was lowered" Unlike the journal entry which tells how it felt to him. For example "There were so many people there—more than I every seen together." And thats how the journal entry is different from the description of New Years Eve in Times square.

**ANNOTATION — 2-POINT RESPONSE**

The student explains how the journal entry is different from the description of New Year's Eve in Times Square in the passage (*the description tells facts.... Unlike the journal entry which tells how it felt to him*). The student supports the explanation using details from both the passage (*facts such as 'In 1907...the first New Years Eve ball was lowered'*) and the journal (*how he felt.... 'There were so many people there—more than I every seen together'*).

**Annotated Student Response****SAMPLE 1-POINT RESPONSE**

1. This Journal entry is different from the description of New Year's Eve because the journal entry has what they do when the ball drops like... screaming and cheering and kissing and hugging.

**ANNOTATION — 1-POINT RESPONSE**

The student explains the journal writer's description of Times Square (*the journal entry has what they do when the ball drops like...screaming and cheering and kissing and hugging*) but fails to explain how it differs from the description from the passage.

## Annotated Student Response

### SAMPLE 0-POINT RESPONSE

1. It is Different becaues she makeing me think the Ball is small.

### ANNOTATION — 0-POINT RESPONSE

The response is irrelevant (*she is makeing me thing the Ball is small*). The student does not explain how the journal entry is different from the description of New Year's Eve in Times Square in the passage.



*The famous ball has not always dropped in Times Square on New Year's Eve.*

## **Ball Drop**

- 1 Dropping a large ball in Times Square on New Year's Eve did not begin until 1907. Before that, special events like the arrival of a new year were celebrated with fireworks. This tradition takes place in many parts of the world today. Prior to 1907, many New Yorkers relied on a different metallic ball that dropped every day at noon from a spire atop the Western Union building. People set their watches to that dropping ball. A similar ball dropped daily in Greenwich, England at the Royal Observatory.
- 2 Since its introduction on New Year's Eve of 1907, the Times Square ball has only not dropped twice. In 1942 and 1943, a "dim out" occurred. This was during World War II, and the lights were dimmed to prevent possible bomb attacks on the city. Even during wartime, people still hoped the new year would bring renewed health, success, and happiness for all people.

**7**

Using both "Traditions: Bridging Past, Present, and Future" and "Ball Drop," explain the significance of the ball drop and development of New Year's traditions. Use details from both passages to support your explanation.



<b>Rubric</b>	
<b>Score</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>4</b>	Using both “Traditions: Bridging Past, Present, and Future” and “Ball Drop,” the student thoroughly explains both the significance of the ball drop and the development of New Year’s traditions. The student uses details from both passages to support the explanation.
<b>3</b>	The student explains the significance of the ball drop and a partial development of the New Year’s tradition, but may leave out a significant detail in the development or significance. Limited details from both passages support the explanation.
<b>2</b>	The student explains either the significance of the ball drop or the development of the New Year’s tradition, but not both. Minimal details from the passages are used to support the explanation.
<b>1</b>	The student gives a general statement about the New Year’s celebration without explaining its significance or development.
<b>0</b>	The student’s response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.

## Annotated Student Response

## SAMPLE 4-POINT RESPONSE

2. The Ball Drop is important because "Since its introduction on New Year's Eve of 1907, the Times Square ball has only not dropped twice. In 1942 and 1943, a "dim out" occurred. This was during World War II, and the lights were dimmed to prevent possible bomb attacks on the city. Even during wartime, people still hoped the new year would bring renewed health, success and happiness for all people", and another detail is "That Ball was made from iron and wood. This tradition of lowering the Ball is known around the world, so millions of people watch the Ball Drop on television every year. The Ball has changed over time and is now made from brilliant crystal and is lit from the inside with colorful lights. It all started with fire works and then a ball lowered as in Greenwich.

#### ANNOTATION — 4-POINT RESPONSE

Using both “Traditions: Bridging Past, Present, and Future” and “Ball Drop,” the student uses details from both passages to thoroughly explain both the significance of the ball drop ( *‘since it’s introduction on New Year’s Eve of 1907, the Times Square ball has only not dropped twice.... a ‘dim out’ occurred.... during World War II....people still hoped the new year would bring renewed health sucess and happiness’*) and the development of New Year’s traditions (*That Ball was made from iron and wood.... has changed over time and now made from brilliant crystal and is lit from the inside.... It all started with fire works and then a ball lowered as in Greenwich*).

## Annotated Student Response

## SAMPLE 3-POINT RESPONSE

2. The significance of the ball drop means the start of a new year, like if you did something in the year you can start all of when the new year comes. I know because in the text it said, "The first New Year's ball was lowered at exactly midnight in Times Square in New York City to mark the start of the new year." The development of the New Year's started out as fire works, then in Greenwich they dropped a ball, and last they started dropping a ball in New York City's town square and dropped the ball. I know because in the text it said "Before that, special events like the arrival of new Year were celebrated with fire works. A similar ball dropped daily in Greenwich, England at the Royal Observatory. In 1907, for example, the first New Year's ball was lowered at exactly midnight in Times Square in New York City to mark the start of the new year."

### ANNOTATION — 3-POINT RESPONSE

Using both “Traditions: Bridging Past, Present, and Future” and “Ball Drop,” the student uses limited details from both passages to explain both the significance of the ball drop (*the start of a new year.... you can start all [over].... ‘The first New Year’s ball was lowered at exactly midnight in Times Square in New York City to mark the start of the new year’*) and the development of New Year’s traditions (*celebrated with fire works. A similar ball dropped in Greenwich.... In 1907, for example, the first New Year’s ball was lowered at exactly midnight in Times Square in New York City*).



**Annotated Student Response****SAMPLE 2-POINT RESPONSE**

2. According to the selection the traditions I've read though this passage are both different Cause before they invinted the ball they used fireworks, and they celebrated New Year's Eve all over the world. Until 1907 a genuis out of the collage from Yale University invinted the Times Square ball that only drooped at 12:00 pm New Year's Eve. This is how we celebraite New Year's Eve today. This is how the New Year's have changed.

**ANNOTATION — 2-POINT RESPONSE**

The student uses minimal details from the passages to explain the development of the New Year's tradition (*before they invented the ball they used fireworks.... Until 1907 a genius...invinted the Times Square ball that only drooped at 12:00 pm New Year's Eve*), but the student fails to address the significance of the ball drop.

**Annotated Student Response****SAMPLE 1-POINT RESPONSE**

2. The significance of "Bridging past, Present, and Future" and "Ball Drop" is they both tell about traditions. Bridging past, Present, and Future tell about some traditions that have been known for about one-thousand years. Ball Drop has told about when the first time they dropped the huge ball, made of pretty crystals and lights. So, they are very, very important to New Year's Eve. Traditions are very special and important.



#### ANNOTATION — 1-POINT RESPONSE

The student gives a general statement about the New Year's celebration (*some traditions that have been known for about one-thousand years.... the first time they dropped the huge ball, made of pretty crystals and lights. Traditions are very special and important*) without explaining its significance or development.

## Annotated Student Response

### SAMPLE 0-POINT RESPONSE

2. They both talk about when traditions were started  
and how traditions were thought of.

**ANNOTATION — 0-POINT RESPONSE**

The student's response is irrelevant (*when traditions were started and how traditions were thought of*), as the student fails to explain either the significance of the ball drop or the development of New Year's traditions.

### Item Information

Question Number	Key	DOK*	KCAS Primary Standard**
1	B	2	L.4.4a
2	C	2	L.4.4c
3	B	3	RI.4.8
4	A	3	RI.4.3
5	D	2	RI.4.5
6	NA	3	RI.4.6
7	NA	3	RI.4.9

\*DOK is the abbreviation for Depth of Knowledge. Please note that DOK is associated to the complexity level of an assessment item and is not aligned to the standard. Further information regarding DOK can be accessed on the Kentucky Department of Education Web site:  
<http://education.ky.gov/curriculum/docs/Pages/Content-Specific-Core-Content-for-Assessment-DOK-Support-Materials.aspx>

\*\*Further information regarding Common Core Standards can be accessed on the Common Core Web site:  
<http://www.corestandards.org>